

# Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2021

2:00-3:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

## System of Care Priorities:

1. Utilize the Residential Analysis Report to increase the number of children, youth and families served in community settings by investing in community-based supports and focusing on mobile response efforts in Vermont.
2. Continue supporting funding structures that are coordinated and streamlined to the highest extent possible across AHS departments moving away from fee-for-service funding and toward value-based payments.
3. Support statewide services being streamlined and coordinated during and after the pandemic.

**Present:** Suzanne Legare-Belcher, Kerri Hoffman-Duquette, Alicia Hanrahan, Barb Joyal, Laurel Omland, Kheya Ganguly, Sandi Yandow, Danielle Bragg, Keith Williams, Amy Roth, Cheryle Wilcox, Diane Bugbee, Beth Sausville, Melanie D'Amico

**Regrets:** Karen Price, Dana Robson

2:00-2:45	<p><b>Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care (e.g. staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes)</b></p> <p><u>DMH:</u> VACANCIES ACROSS DA/SSA NETWORK OF PROVIDERS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As of February 2021: Systemwide the staff vacancy rate is 15%.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Developmental Disability Services: 190</li><li>b. Mental Health Services: 519</li><li>c. Substance Use Disorder Services: 29</li><li>d. Other: 42</li><li>e. Total Vacancies: 780</li></ol></li><li>2. As of August 2021: Systemwide staff vacancy rate is 31% (DS ~ 45%, MH ~ 27%, Other ~ 15%)<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Total Vacancies: 850</li></ol></li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Rettew's last day is October 4th. He is leaving for a position as a Children's Mental Health Director in Oregon. Acted as Children's Medical Director with DMH through a UVM contract. Looking into coverage.</li><li>• Kiah Palumbo, Children's Care Manager, will be leaving DMH for OneCare Vermont in early October. Dana will be posting for that position.</li><li>• MRSS update – one team of clinician and case manager hired and slowly on ramping. Finding housing in Rutland is challenging for prospective job candidates.</li><li>• Accessing appropriate levels of care for youth with eating disorders. Interagency meeting held with families, DMH, DVHA, and UVMMC. Families who have experienced challenges and gaps in the levels of care and access to treatment shared their stories. The next step to pull together state department conversation. It was very impactful to hear the experiences of families.</li><li>• The DMH Policy Director returns November 1.</li></ul>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inform <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss <input type="checkbox"/> Decide</p>
-----------	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a community meeting next week to focus on children in emergency departments.</li> <li>• Kheya asked to join Act 1 group and to be a reader of education materials using a trauma lens.</li> <li>• Kheya will visit social Equity caucus in legislature.</li> <li>• She will visit the task force regarding pupil weighing factors related to ADM.</li> <li>• LGBTQI orgs in the state will meet with Kheya to discuss suicide prevention, bullying.</li> <li>• Kheya will conduct a resilience training in the Bennington community which will offer four slots for community partners. These will be open sessions and will go over the Resilience Messaging Project.</li> </ul> <p><u>CDD:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backlog in background checks for caregivers, they are working to whittle down the numbers.</li> <li>• Special accommodations grant – there will be three rounds of applications. The first round will end tomorrow. The second in November. ARPA funds will contribute. Info is posted on website.</li> </ul> <p><u>DAIL/DDSD:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare McFadden and Amy Roth are retiring at the end of November. <b><i>(They will be greatly missed, and we are so appreciative of the many contributions they have made to our Division and the system of care for Vermonters with Developmental Disabilities! Thank you!)</i></b></li> <li>• Clare is acting as interim Director until her retirement. Recruitment Efforts are under way for both Director and Assistant Director, Amy's position.</li> <li>• Jessica Bernard has moved into the position of Director of Payment Reform, Clare's former position. Jessica's former position, Senior Compliance Auditor and Program Consultant, will be under recruitment.</li> <li>• The Francis Foundation is closing. Placements for nineteen people need to be identified and good progress is being made.</li> <li>• FMAP drafting proposals are being drafted in the Department and need to go to AHS by tomorrow.</li> <li>• QM team still doing reviews, mostly remote, there have been outbreaks within the population we serve.</li> <li>• After 25 years of service, Diane Bugbee will be retiring shortly after the new year. Please consider becoming the next co-chair of SIT!</li> </ul> <p><u>AHS FIELD DIRECTORS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Directors looking forward to partnering with Kheya around resilience training.</li> <li>• Working with ESD around length of stay in hotels. This has been put on pause for the next thirty days.</li> <li>• Working on understanding who are in the hotels and find the folks who need more services and should perhaps be in long-term residential programs.</li> <li>• Warming shelters are a focus</li> <li>• In hotels now - 357 kids, 1051 adults</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last 20 CSPs have been for children who were adopted, are in foster care, or dissolved adoptions.</li> <li>• Distinctions between kinship care and regular foster care are important to note</li> </ul> <p><u>AOE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AOE is facing similar staffing issues as others</li> <li>• ARCC at Brattleboro Retreat no longer has a school, now treating it as a group home, will provide virtual individualized education programming for students through the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative. Special Education directors will be involved to provide the special education services.</li> <li>• There has been an Increase in home school requests but not seeing as high an increase as last year.</li> </ul> <p><u>FSD:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding VKAP support – cross site kinship navigation; implementing a model that could become evidence based that would be IV-E reimbursable.</li> <li>• Diligent recruitment – have been tracking website visits and inquiries around foster care. Have had four inquiries. 18% of inquirers go on to become caregivers.</li> <li>• Submitted five-year prevention plan to Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner for review. Getting ready to submit to Bureau a week from Friday. Will provide highlights at another meeting.</li> <li>• Looking for affirmation from this group to be an advisory group.</li> <li>• Feeling impact of COVID in congregate care, kin placements, and foster care. Kinship placements may be more at risk due to ages of caregivers and vulnerabilities around COVID.</li> <li>• Danielle Feld is new District Director in Barre.</li> <li>• Congregate care – struggling badly, another program has reduced capacity, challenging to maintain programs, this creates a higher demand on foster homes which are hard to come by. Challenging for all.</li> </ul> <p><u>DVHA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new commissioner yet. Deputies stepping in to fill the roles</li> <li>• Dr. Strenio will be moving to become the medical director for the department of corrections</li> </ul>	
2:45-3:25	<p><b>System of Care Report – Considerations for the next report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How do we think through how to make this report as meaningful as possible?</li> <li>2. Intro letter—from whom? Importance of interagency work? Thank you, words of encouragement?</li> <li>3. How do we really highlight the connections between our dept, AOE and AHS so this isn't just updates from each dept separately?</li> <li>4. What data really tells our story?</li> </ol> <p>Report not completed for ten years. SIT then Committed to completing a report every year for the last five years. Periodically review how we share this information. It is one of the few places where this information exists together. We want it to be meaningful.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discuss <input type="checkbox"/> Decide

	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter with emphasis on the interagency work. Integrated vs. each writing our own parts.</li> <li>• Not sure schools actively read it. Goes to the legislature. What happens after that? One year went, not in statute that it goes there. Send it to LITs. DMH pulls information from the report for its legislative report. Bring to LIT Connections?</li> <li>• How do folks use the report or see it being used?</li> <li>• Not sure how people use it. A section on how to use it?</li> <li>• LIT Connections group should be highlighted in the report.</li> <li>• Has had side conversations about the report. Who benefits so it's not just sitting out there? To what end? Where are the continued needs?</li> <li>• Structure it differently – what has been accomplished? Initiatives together? Addressing the recs of the Act 264 Board. Highlights and continued needs from the year? What makes it into the report about how our system is functioning?</li> <li>• Address the trauma children and families have experienced during COVID 19, struggles with education, what we have done collectively to address.</li> <li>• Impacts on families of various initiatives – solicit feedback from our community partners.</li> <li>• Suzanne said that Field Services interested in helping with this report. Kheya also willing to help. Consider using the RBA model about the various initiatives implemented.</li> </ul>	
<b>3:25-3:30</b>	<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b> Folks reminded about the combined November/December meeting. See everyone in October!	